

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
8 OCT 2009
FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

Submission No. 008
(Youth Violence)
A.O.C. Date: 08/10/09

From: Rosemary Power [
Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2009 2:33 PM
To: Committee, FCHY (REPS)
Subject: Sub 008: submission Impact of Violence on Young Australians

Thursday 8/10/09

(Postal)

Mrs Rosemary Jeanette Power

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I am currently the Treasurer of Aust Federation University Women (Q'ld Gold Coast Branch)
Also currently the Treasurer of Australian Rostrum Q'ld Inc Club 47 Southport Speech Makers.

TO:
Secretary of " Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on young Australians."
House of Representatives
P O Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

SUBJECT THIS SUBMISSION ADDRESSES THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

“Strategies to reduce violence and its impact among young Australians”

I suggest that all government and non government state and secondary schools throughout Australia be given the opportunity to undertake the 10 week long introduction to Christianity “Youth Alpha” course. Youth have the right to be taught a basic bedrock value system that addresses the Golden Rule “Do unto others as you would have them do to you”, from a Christian viewpoint. All the great faiths of the world teach this Golden Rule in one form or another. Youth have a right to be taught a moral and spiritual value system on how to conduct their life in a non violent manner and to respect themselves and others.

My suggestion addresses the spiritual need of youth (excluding the bio,psycho,social,and cultural aspect of an individual.)

All main stream Christian churches from the Roman Catholic through to the Pentecostal agree upon, and teach this course.

The “Alpha” course is run in around 140 countries throughout the world and has been tailored to address various age and differing settings.

E.g. “Youth Alpha”
“Business Alpha”
“Prison Alpha”
“Marriage and Premarriage Alpha “

Prison Alpha”s statistics are impressive in regard to the low reoffending rate of former prisoners who have undertaken the course during their prison stay.

Granted Australia is a multicultural society and every citizen has rights and freedoms and choices in how to pass onto the country’s youth how to conduct themselves in a democratic society. The Youth Alpha course fulfills this conduct criterion from the Christian viewpoint.

The inter faith movement (i.e. dialogue and interaction between the five great world faiths) is gaining acceptance. The inter faith movement advises The United Nations on workable strategies to enhance cohesion between societies of different faiths and belief systems to live beside one another in peace and harmony. Australian youth deserve to have access to this right.

Youth and their parents should have a Christian course available to them in schools should they wish to avail themselves of it. The point is not trying to convert our young people but expose them to a moral and value system built on 2000 years of history not on today’s shallow violent pop culture values.

Information may be obtained from the national Alpha web site. I conduct Alpha courses at my local Anglican church so I am fully aware how entertaining and informative this course is.

.....(Mrs) Rosemary J Power